

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Contact:

Jan Walch
Director of Philanthropy and Communications
Aging Care Connections
Phone: (708) 603-2243
Email: jwalch@agingcareconnections.org
Website: AgingCareConnections.org

Aging Care Connections Celebrates 25 Years of Sports Ball with Milestone Anniversary Gala

Annual event brings together sports, entertainment and community support for older adults and their caregivers

LA GRANGE, IL — September 1, 2026 — Aging Care Connections will celebrate the 25th anniversary of its signature Sports Ball on Saturday, October 3, 2026, from 6 to 10 p.m. at The Elmcrest Banquets & Catering, 7370 W. Grand Ave. in Elmwood Park.

For 25 years, Sports Ball has brought together community members, business leaders and supporters for an evening that combines a love of sports with a commitment to helping older adults live safely, independently and with dignity. Proceeds from the event support Aging Care Connections' programs and services for older adults and their caregivers.

"Twenty-five years of Sports Ball represents so much more than the longevity of an event," said Desiree M. Scully, MA, Executive Director of Aging Care Connections. "It represents 25 years of people in our community coming together because they believe older adults deserve the resources, support and connections they need to age well. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who has made Sports Ball part of that mission over the years, and we're looking forward to celebrating this milestone together."

This year's anniversary celebration will feature an evening of food, entertainment, inspiring stories, a silent auction, raffle, paddle raise and more. ABC 7 Chicago Sports Anchor Dionne Miller returns as Mistress of Ceremonies, with entertainment provided by nationally touring Chicago comedian Jim Flannigan.

Illinois Senate Majority Leader The Honorable Kimberly A. Lightford will be recognized as the 2026 Champion Award recipient. Lightford has represented Illinois' 4th District since 1998 and has championed initiatives supporting education, families, workers and grandparents raising grandchildren.

Sports Ball will also welcome sports celebrity guest Jonah Fialkow, known to fans as "Jewish Jonah." A legendary Wrigley Field beer and hot dog vendor, viral content creator and co-founder of Bracketology.tv, Fialkow will bring his trademark sports enthusiasm and hometown humor to the anniversary celebration.

"I am excited about the Sports Ball gala because I believe strongly in backing a mission that provides so much support to older people in communities," Fialkow said. "I was fortunate to have such a strong relationship

with my grandparents, but I know that not all older folks receive familial support as they age. Aging Care Connections is an important organization that seemingly provides that familial stability, and more!"

The evening begins with a 6 p.m. reception featuring hors d'oeuvres, a silent auction and raffle, followed by dinner at 7 p.m., testimonials, a paddle raise and comedy entertainment. Tickets are \$175 per person or \$1,600 for a table of 10.

Sports fans can also participate in the Chicago Bears Bonanza raffle, featuring two lower-level seats to either the Christmas Day Packers at Bears game on December 25 or the Lions at Bears rivalry game on January 3.

Tickets, sponsorships, raffle tickets and additional information are available at accsportsball26.givesmart.com. The RSVP deadline is Thursday, September 17, 2026.

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About Aging Care Connections

Aging Care Connections is a leading nonprofit serving over 13,000 residents each year across 38 communities in suburban Cook County, dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for older adults, caregivers, and families. Through innovative programs and services, Aging Care Connections promotes dignity, independence, and well-being for those it serves. Learn more at AgingCareConnections.org.